

## **Program Opportunity Notice (PON)**

### **2nd Round Questions and Answers for PON -11-502 – Energy Related Environmental Research**

Q: In the schedule instructions (Attachment E) it states "If this form is being completed by an Applicant as part of a proposal to the Energy Commission, leave the CPR sections blank." Does this mean that I should only enter the number of anticipated CPRs required for my proposed project and not the dates?

A: As part of the proposal, do not identify any critical project reviews (CPRs). These will be included in the schedule by the Energy Commission prior to issuing a funding award. However, in developing your budget, you should anticipate two to three CPRs over the course of the project.

Q: Should the planned start and completion dates be entered in the green highlighted section of the Schedule of Products? The instructions are not explicit regarding this.

A: Only insert dates where <insert date> is indicated. The green highlighted areas should be left blank.

Q: Part of our project entails vetting competing bids from general contractors to ensure a low cost for the project. Is it acceptable to have a major sub-contractor (and key personnel) be "To Be Determined?"

A: Subcontractors do not need to be identified in the proposal. As part of the funded agreement, however, the applicant will be required to receive a minimum of three bids in selecting the subcontractor. Please note that an applicant must provide sufficient information in the proposal to establish whether the minimum California Based Entity (CBE) Requirement is met. In addition, the applicant must provide sufficient information to assess whether the portion of the budget designated for unspecified subcontractors can be applied towards the Economic Investment in California scoring criterion found in Attachment H. Finally, the applicant must agree not to exceed the amounts identified for unspecified subcontractors used in Attachment D to determine the average loaded rate.

Q: The budget asks recipient to allocate hours of work and wage rate for each sub-contractor. Apart from requiring a sub-contractor to pay a prevailing wage, we have very little ability to audit and manage the labor rates paid by a sub-contractor to the sub-contractors' employees. How should we approach this in the budget?

A: Starting on page 9 of Attachment K, Terms and Conditions, Contracting and Procurement Procedures between a grant recipient and subcontractors are laid out. In addition, Attachments K, L and M lay out prevailing wage requirements, compliance and frequently asked questions. Applicants must submit a budget reflecting prevailing wages where applicable.

Q: Can we include a bibliography to support and strengthen our proposal narrative and the work plan without it being counted against the specified page limit?

A: A bibliography to support the proposal narrative and the work plan will not count against the specified page limits.

Q: Is there a file to use when answering the CBE questions for attachment J?

A: Attachment J is found starting on page 51 of the Application Manual. To make answering these questions more convenient, a word document with these questions and example answers will be posted.

Q: Can a nonprofit organization qualify as the principal investigator?

A: A scientist from a nonprofit organization can be the principal investigator representing his/her institution. The scientist must be the principal investigator.

Q: For Research Topic 1, does the given minimum amount, \$350,000, apply to each proposal?

A: Yes.

Q: For Research Topic 4, Carbon Dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) Utilization Technologies, Is a "demonstration unit" required? If so, how big does it have to be?

A: A demonstration project is not required for this topic.

Q: For Research Topic 4, would optimizing a lab-scale pilot to achieve commercially viable conversion of CO<sub>2</sub> into chemicals qualify for funding under this grant?

A: Yes.

Q: For Research Topic 4, does the CO<sub>2</sub> have to be produced from a flue stack or can it be CO<sub>2</sub> in the lab?

A: The CO<sub>2</sub> can be created under laboratory conditions.

Q: Though it is not necessary to have identified a partner/site for field-testing, is that something we could do eventually as part of our development process and include as a milestone in the grant application?

A: Yes, sites for field testing can be established as a task for awarded grants. On page 26 in Attachment C, the Statement of Work Template, which is found in the Application Manual, identifies site selection as a specific technical task.